

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amendments of Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 can be found, for example, in the originally filed specification at least in Figs. 6a and 8 and page 28, line 23 to page 29, line 7. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; and Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Muto (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0116480) in view of Okada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,088,125) in further view of Parry (U.S. Pat. No. 6,666,594) in further view of York (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0120775) in further view of Goddard (U.S. Pat. No. 6,622,266).

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 have been amended to remove the phrase “and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 have been amended to provided proper antecedent basis for all features recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by Muto, Okada, Parry, York and Goddard, the rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 describes an image reproducing apparatus. Figure 2 illustrates a non-limiting example of the invention recited in Claim 1. The image reproducing apparatus recited in Claim 1 is designed to form and reproduce images. If there is a problem with the reproduction or forming of the images, an acquiring unit 13 acquires the problem information. The problem information is then sent to the addressee determination unit 14 which accesses the problem database 20 and identifies the problem code of the problem and finds the addressee who is associated with that problem code based on the severity of the problem.

A web page is then created that contains both detailed information about the problem detected in the image reproducing process and a user customizable designation corresponding to the image reproducing apparatus. The addressee determination unit 14 then sends the detailed information to the e-mail creating means which creates an e-mail using the above information including placing the customizable designation in the subject line of the email. Finally, the communication unit sends the e-mail.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

a web page creating means that creates a Web page containing detailed information about the problems detected in an image reporting and reproducing process and a user customizable designation corresponding to the image reproducing apparatus; and

an e-mail creating means that creates an e-mail to report the occurrence of said one of the problems to the selected addressee and inserts the problem ID code, the user customizable designation and a URL of the Web page in a subject field of the e-mail.

Independent Claims 13, 14, 15, 27 and 28 recite similar features.

Muto describes a system in which transmission data is generated on a status change of a device. Further, Muto describes a mail header/footer unit that stores destination information<sup>1</sup> and status codes corresponding to a status message data unit.<sup>2</sup> Okada describes sending a result of a process from a printing machine to a destination node stored in a table.<sup>3</sup> Parry describes a web server that creates a web page that lists printer errors.<sup>4</sup> York describes that a URL of a web page can be placed in the body of an email.<sup>5</sup> Goddard describes that different users are contacted depending on the type of problem.<sup>6</sup>

However, none of the cited Muto, Okada, Parry, York or Goddard references describes or suggests that a web page includes a user customizable designation corresponding to the image reproducing apparatus and that the customizable designation is placed in a subject field of a reporting e-mail.

In other words, although Parry describes a web page that lists printer errors, Parry does not describe or suggest that a user can change the name of the image reproducing apparatus on the web page to some customized designation. Further, York does not describe or suggest that this customized designation is placed into the subject field of the error reporting email providing the user with a quick reference to which device has a problem.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claims 13, 14, 15, 27 and 28 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Muto, Okada, Parry, York and Goddard considered individually or in any proper combination.

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<sup>1</sup> Muto, paragraph 0045.

<sup>2</sup> Muto, paragraph 0055.

<sup>3</sup> Okada, Fig. 19.

<sup>4</sup> Parry col. 8 lines 9-25.

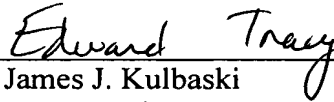
<sup>5</sup> York, paragraph, [0032].

<sup>6</sup> Goddard, col. 3, lines 45-65.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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